

AIRLIFT **Dispatch**

Inside

- ▶ Network/ 2
- ▶ Commentary/ 8
- ▶ Welcome back/ 11
- ▶ Swami winner/ 15

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

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C-17s to drop jumpers 6,700 miles away

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Army airborne troops will jump from two C-17s as they fly halfway around the world to a remote drop zone near the city of Almaty, Kazakhstan, Sunday as part of a multi-national military exercise.

Central Asian Peacekeeping Battalion 2000 is a humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping field training exercise. Elements of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne division at Fort Bragg, N.C., will take part in the exercise along with the central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and other NATO partner nations like Turkey. The exercise runs through Sept. 20 and is designed to improve peacekeeping task proficiency and mission readiness.

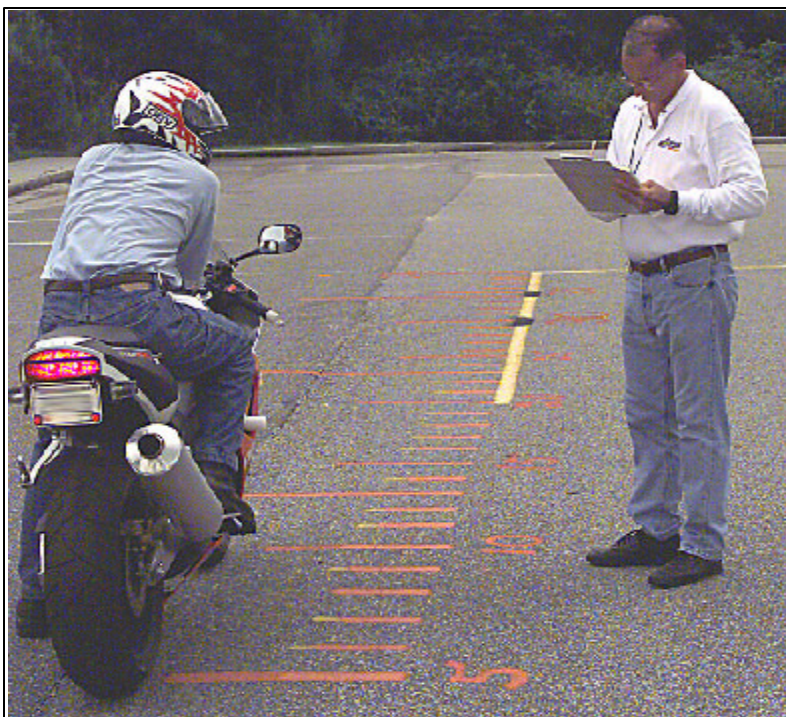
With two en-route aerial refuelings, one Charleston and one Altus AFB, Okla., C-17 will fly 6,672 miles to air-drop 157 Army paratroopers

from Company C, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (with some attached elements) at 10:20 a.m. EST.

The C-17s will pick up the paratroopers at Pope AFB, N.C., Sept. 9 and then fly approximately 20 hours non-stop to the dropzone in Kazakhstan. A Turkish C-130 and a Kazakhstan Mi6 helicopter will join the C-17s at the dropzone.

"The entire mission is very challenging since it will involve a lot of elements such as a long crew duty day, two formation air refuelings enroute, and a drop at an unfamiliar drop zone working with air traffic controllers in a foreign country," said Maj. Leon Strickland, mission commander for the C-17s and assistant deputy of operations for the 15th Airlift Squadron. "It will clearly demonstrate the direct delivery capability of the C-17 and allow us to practice that standard."

see **Jump**, page 3



Making the grade

Master Sgt. Tim McCutcheon, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron production superintendent and motorcycle safety instructor, evaluates stopping during the base motorcycle safety course. For more information, or to register for the course, contact Staff Sgt. Chris Orbits, wing safety office, at 963-5598.

photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

C-17 prepares to take center stage in 'Air Expo 2000'

By Capt. Tracy Velino
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB's own C-17s will take center stage at Air Expo 2000, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the flight line here.

The world's premier airlifter will demonstrate its unique landing, maneuvering, loading and takeoff capabilities. Also, aircrews from the 437th and 315th airlift wings will treat the crowd to a seven-ship C-17 formation flyby.

The Lowcountry community will get to see first-hand why the C-17 is the first choice to deliver cargo and troops to airfields around the globe, making CAFB the busiest base in the Air Force.

Air Expo 2000 is open to the public with free admission and parking.

"I think what's really cool about

this year's airshow is that we'll be able to show the public how the C-17 integrates into our nation's war-fighting capability," said Maj. Petra Sharrett, Air Expo 2000 director.

The C-17 will kick off the day by airdropping the "Wings of Blue," the U.S. Air Force Academy's parachute team, who will perform an exciting aerial ballet.

Also planned is an explosive airfield seizure demonstration, during which the C-17 will deliver Army equipment and personnel to show how the U.S. military trains to take over an enemy airfield. Amidst Army attack helicopters, the C-17 will perform engine-running offloads of the M1A1 Abrams tank and M2A2 Bradley fighting vehicle, and airdrop parachutists including air assault troops from the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sharrett encourages the CAFB community to help spread the word to friends and neighbors about Air Expo 2000.

"I think today's military members should be really proud of the sacrifices they make for this country, and the airshow is a great opportunity for us to share what we do with the Charleston community," said Sharrett.

More highlights of this year's show include demonstrations by an F-16 Fighting Falcon, a Navy F-18 Hornet and a fly-over with a World War II-era, P-51 Mustang.

Other attractions include fly-overs of vintage aircraft, such as the B-25 bomber and UC-78 trainer, as well as displays of the UH-1 Huey and B-1B

Lancer. There will be a Korean War-era T-33 acrobatic demonstration as well as a show by the "Tora Tora Tora" Japanese A6M Zero team including pyrotechnics.

Additionally, there will be many static displays to include the KC-10 Extender, KC-135 Stratotanker and the star of the show, the C-17.

Gates open at 9 a.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. No glass containers, bicycles, pets, smoking or rollerblading will be allowed on the flightline. Performances and static displays are subject to change without notice.

Vehicles with handicapped stickers are encouraged to enter the Rivers Gate near Aviation Avenue for designated parking and seating.

For the latest information on Air Expo 2000, call 963-EXPO, or check out <http://www.charleston.af.mil>.